



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for January 27, 2021

Gov. Beshear reports 2,424 new COVID-19 cases; 47 deaths

(WKYT) Governor Andy Beshear has provided an update on COVID-19 cases. Governor Beshear reported 2,424 COVID-19 cases on Wednesday, bringing the state total to 352,943 cases. The governor says the state is seeing a 9.35 percent positivity rate. Of Wednesday's new cases, 413 are in kids 18 or younger. Today's daily case total marks the lowest Wednesday in four weeks. There were 47 reported COVID-19 related deaths on Wednesday, bringing the state total to 3,542.

Gov. Beshear says the federal government will now increase Kentucky's allocation by 16-17% each week, which is about 8,800 more doses per week.

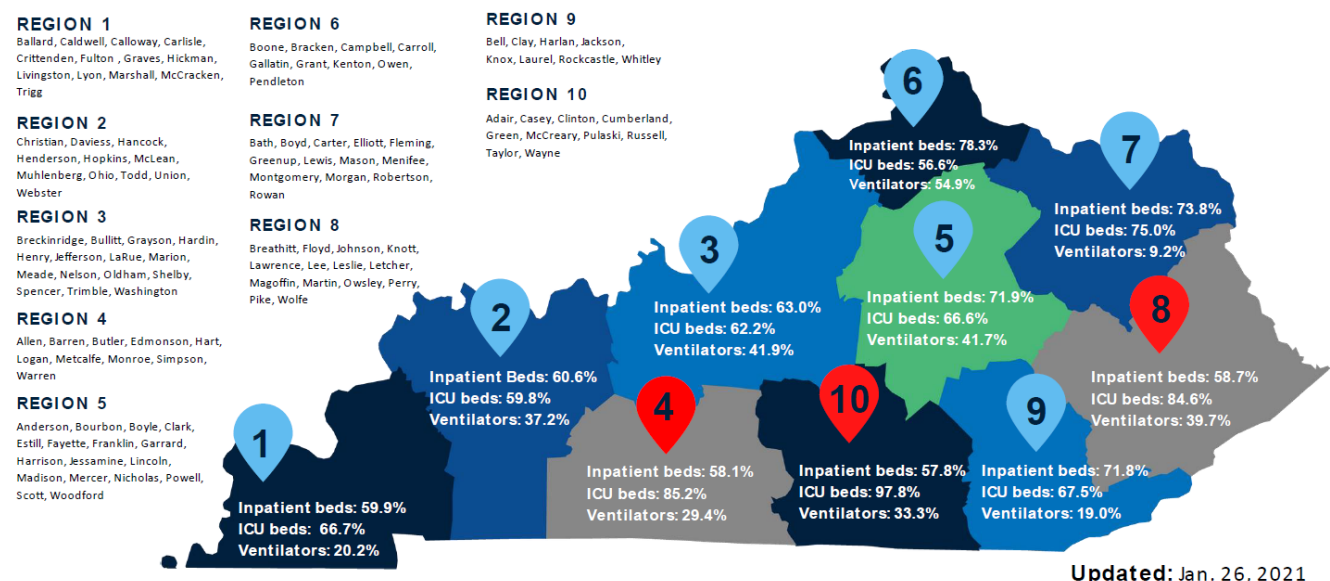
Dr. Steven Stack addressed the COVID variant that has been confirmed in Kentucky, two cases in Kenton County. He says it is more contagious, but it is not more lethal. But, he says this makes face masks and self-quarantining even more critical.

"Those variations, the more we let the virus spread, the more the virus has a chance to replicate, the more mutations occur, the more risk we have, the more harm and danger. So please, wear your mask, watch your distance, wash your hands, stay home if you're sick," Dr. Stack said.

Watch press conference and read full WKYT story: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2021/01/27/watch-live-gov-beshear-gives-update-on-covid-19/>

Press Release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=574>

HOSPITAL CAPACITY BY REGION



Updated: Jan. 26, 2021

HHS to permit retired and inactive clinicians to administer COVID-19 vaccines

(AHA Today) The Department of Health and Human Services today will amend the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act to permit doctors and nurses who have recently retired or become inactive to administer COVID-19 vaccines and anyone currently licensed to vaccinate in their state to administer shots across state lines, White House COVID-19 Response Coordinator Jeff Zients announced today at the first regular briefing by the White House COVID-19 Response Team. "As the President said, we need to increase the number of places people can get vaccinated," Zients said. "And at the same time increase the number of vaccinators. This action by HHS will help get more vaccinators in the field."

FDA Takes Action to Place All Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizers from Mexico on Import Alert

(FDA) As part of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's continuing [efforts to protect consumers](#) from potentially dangerous or subpotent hand sanitizers, the agency has placed all alcohol-based hand sanitizers

from Mexico on a countrywide [import alert to](#) help stop products that appear to be in violation from entering the U.S. until the agency is able to review the products' safety.

Learn more: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-takes-action-place-all-alcohol-based-hand-sanitizers-mexico-import>

**Webinar: Developing Patient Criteria for
Acute Hospital Care at Home Programs**

Jan. 28 | 4 p.m. ET

(AHA) The Hospital at Home Users Group and American Academy of Home Care Medicine panelists will discuss how to develop patient selection criteria for recipients of home-based acute care. The AHA webinar is part of a series designed for hospitals and health systems interested in implementing a hospital care-at-home model. [Register Now](#)

With COVID Vaccinations Underway, Some Frontline Workers in KY are Hesitant to Receive It

Learn more: <https://wfpl.org/with-covid-vaccinations-underway-some-frontline-workers-are-hesitant-to-receive-it/>

CDC K-12 Schools COVID-19 Mitigation Toolkit

(CDC) The **K-12 Schools COVID-19 Mitigation Toolkit** is designed for public health officials, K-12 administrators, school district officials, and occupational safety and health (OSH) professionals to assess hazards and implement mitigation strategies to reduce the spread of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in schools. To protect students, teachers and staff, and the broader community, schools should consider implementing several of the recommended strategies, which will encourage behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19.

This toolkit is based on the [Operating Schools During COVID-19: CDC's Considerations](#) and the [Strategies for Protecting K-12 School Staff from COVID-19](#).

Link for more: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-mitigation-toolkit.html>

***Related* - CDC officials say schools can re-open during pandemic
but precautions are crucial**

Read more: <https://www.nbcnews.com/science/science-news/cdc-officials-say-schools-can-re-open-during-pandemic-precautions-n1255782>

CDC COVID [What's New?](#)

- [Workplace Vaccination Program](#) Wednesday, January 27, 2021
- [Essential Workers & Employees: When & How to Get Vaccinated](#) Wednesday, January 27, 2021
- [Importance of COVID-19 Vaccination for Essential Workers](#) Wednesday, January 27, 2021
- [Requirement for Proof of Negative COVID-19 Test or Recovery from COVID-19 for All Air Passengers Arriving in the United States](#) Wednesday, January 27, 2021
- [Donate Blood Plasma and Help Save Lives](#) Wednesday, January 27, 2021
- [Correctional and Detention Facilities](#) Wednesday, January 27, 2021
- [Household Checklist](#) Wednesday, January 27, 2021
- [How to Protect Yourself & Others](#) Wednesday, January 27, 2021
- [Health Departments](#) Wednesday, January 27, 2021
- [Building Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccines](#) Tuesday, January 26, 2021
- [K-12 Schools COVID-19 Mitigation Toolkit](#) Tuesday, January 26, 2021 [See related story.]

**Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from [January 27, 2021](#)**

[Potential Solutions to the COVID-19 Oxygen Crisis in the United States](#) (Johns Hopkins) Oxygen shortages are occurring because a large number of patients require oxygen therapy as part of their COVID-19 treatment. Over the course of the pandemic, medical providers have seen the survival benefits of providing high flow nasal oxygen, rather than mechanical ventilation, to many COVID-19 patients. The challenge is that high flow oxygen therapy uses roughly 5 to 10 times the amount of oxygen as a mechanical ventilator.

[Biden Announces Purchase of 200M Vaccine Doses](#) (CNN) President Joe Biden announced a series of measures on Tuesday aimed at ramping up coronavirus vaccine allocation and distribution, including the purchase of 200 million more vaccine doses and increased distribution to states by millions of doses next week. With those additional doses, Biden said there would be enough to fully vaccinate 300 million Americans -- nearly the entire US population -- by the end of summer or early fall.

[Some European Countries Move To Require Medical-Grade Masks In Public](#) (NPR) A number of European countries have announced new mask recommendations and requirements, pushing aside fabric masks in favor of surgical masks or medical-grade respirators.

[Why N95 Masks Are Still In Short Supply In The U.S.](#) (NPR) Today, most consumers still aren't able to buy N95 masks, because the supply available to retailers remains very limited. Even hospital workers are still being asked to ration and reuse their supplies of N95s, and the website of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says, "N-95 respirators should not be used [by the general public] because they should be conserved for healthcare personnel."

[Sanofi to Help Produce 100 Million Pfizer/BioNTech Vaccine Doses](#) (Reuters) Sanofi will fill and pack millions of doses of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine from July in an effort to help meet the huge demand for the U.S. drugmaker's shots. The French company will aim to help supply more than 100 million doses of the vaccine this year from its German plant in Frankfurt, CEO Paul Hudson told Le Figaro newspaper on Tuesday.

[Monoclonal Antibodies Protect Against COVID-19 in a Second Study](#) (Science) A second company has provided preliminary evidence that proactively infusing healthy people with monoclonal antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 prevents them from developing noticeable symptoms of COVID-19 if they are exposed to the coronavirus. In a press release today, Regeneron revealed that when it gave a cocktail of two of those antibodies to 186 people living in a house with someone who had COVID-19, none developed symptomatic disease.

Air Force Study:

Microwaves to Deactivate Coronavirus, Flu, Other Aerosolized Viral Particles

AFRL scientists report a set of experimental tools capable of presenting electromagnetic waves to an aerosol mixture of biological media and virus with the capability to vary power, energy, and frequency of the electromagnetic exposure. The key portions of each system fit within standard biosafety cabinets and are designed to prevent release of microwave radiation into the lab environment. [Read more](#)

CDC Clinicians ZOOM Call

[Treating Long COVID: Clinician Experience with Post- \(Free CE\) Acute COVID-19 Care](#)

Thursday, January 28 at 2-3 PM ET

Please click on the Zoom link below to join:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1606808037?pwd=NUx3a1hQd2tVWVZBU0JobFgxUDJ2Zz09>

DHS Issues a National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Bulletin

(DHS) The Acting Secretary of Homeland Security has issued a [National Terrorism Advisory System \(NTAS\) Bulletin](#) today after consultation with the intelligence community and law enforcement partners. There is currently a heightened threat environment across the United States that is likely to persist over the coming weeks. DHS does not have any information to indicate a specific, credible plot; however, violent riots have continued in recent days and we remain concerned that individuals frustrated with the exercise of governmental authority and the presidential transition, as well as other perceived grievances and ideological causes fueled by false narratives, could continue to mobilize a broad range of ideologically-motivated actors to incite or commit violence. **View as PDF:** [National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin - January 27, 2021](#) (pdf, 1 page, 292.01KB)

Biden Orders DOJ To End Reliance On Private Prisons

Read more: <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2021/01/26/biden-orders-end-federally-run-private-prisons/4266082001/>

**Austin Doctor Took Hostages, Killed Pediatrician
in Murder-Suicide at Doctor's Office**

The Austin Police Department says an hours-long SWAT standoff at a Central Austin pediatric doctor's office that ended with two people dead began when the gunman, himself a doctor, took hostages in the office.

According to police, a 911 caller reported that 43-year-old Dr. Bharat Narumanchi entered the office with what appeared to be a pistol, shotgun, and two duffel bags, and was holding five hostages inside. He demanded all of them tie themselves up. All except for one were able to escape or were released. Police learned that Narumanchi was still holding 43-year-old Dr. Katherine Lindley Dodson hostage. The suspect, Dr. Narumanchi, had terminal cancer and was given only weeks to live.

Austin Police SWAT officers made entry and located both Dr. Dodson and Dr. Narumanchi dead inside the building from apparent gunshot wounds. It appeared that Dr. Narumanchi shot himself after shooting Dr. Dodson, APD said.

Full story: <https://ktxs.com/news/local/doctor-took-hostages-killed-pediatrician-in-murder-suicide-at-austin-doctors-office>

Elder Fraud and Abuse Resources

(InfraGard) The more we continue to learn about elder fraud and abuse, the better we are at protecting ourselves, families and friends, and at helping first responders and the law enforcement succeed in their efforts to counter this type of crime. Six resources have been selected for your review in 2021. They provide prevention and protection advice from the the FBI, U.S. Department of Justice, the NIH National Institute on Aging, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the National Center on Elder Abuse.

ELDER FRAUD - [Elder Fraud — FBI](#)

Common elder fraud schemes, protect yourself, how to report and resources.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ACTIVITIES TO COMBAT ELDER FRAUD AND ABUSE

[Attorney General's Annual Report to Congress on Department of Justice Activities to Combat Elder Fraud and Abuse](#)

The Department charged almost 300 cases including government imposter, computer tech, romance, investment, and lottery scams and obtaining court orders to prevent robocalls from overseas and by prioritizing the annual Money Mule initiative to disrupt the flow of fraud proceeds to perpetrators.

ELDER ABUSE - [Elder Abuse | National Institute on Aging](#)

Types of abuse, who is being abused, signs of abuse, who can help, long term effects and more information.

ELDER ABUSE - [Elder Abuse | Violence Prevention | Injury Center | CDC](#)

Fast facts, prevention strategies, risk and protective factors and resources.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) COVID-19 AND VIOLENCE AGAINST OLDER PEOPLE
[COVID-19 and violence against older people](#)

Sharp increase, what can be done by governments and policy makers, healthcare facilities and providers, communities and older people.

CHECKLIST FOR KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER DURING COVID-19

[Keeping Family Together During COVID-19: A Checklist](#)

It is natural to be stressed during these times. When it comes to family matters, envisioning a checklist and making carefully and planned decisions can foster respect and a healthy living environment.

If you become aware of possible unlawful acts related to elderly fraud and/or abuse, you are right to be concerned. If you **SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING** in a timely manner to law enforcement, security and/or your supervisor, and give the authorities a chance to make a difference.

Research shows living near trees, green vegetation may prevent vascular damage from air pollution

(KyForward News & UofL) The research, led by Aruni Bhatnagar, professor of medicine and director of the UofL Christina Lee Brown Envirome Institute, was published ahead of print in the American Journal of Physiology-Heart and Circulatory Physiology.

Previous studies have shown that proximity to green space — trees and other vegetation — can lower blood pressure levels and the risk of heart disease. A number of environmental factors may come into play, including increased opportunity for outdoor exercise, reduced mental stress and socioeconomic status. However, the relationship between vascular (blood vessel) health, green space and air pollution has not been fully explored.

In this new study, researchers looked at the arterial stiffness of adult volunteers with co-occurring conditions such as obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes and high cholesterol, that put the volunteers in the moderate-to-severe risk category for heart disease.

Learn more: <https://www.kyforward.com/research-shows-living-near-trees-green-vegetation-may-prevent-vascular-damage-from-air-pollution/>

East Coast Hit with Internet Trouble

Slowdown affects broad swath of users from DC to Boston

(Newser – Jan 26 2:41 PM ET) Balky internet service prevented users on the East Coast from loading the software they use to learn and work on Tuesday morning. Google, Zoom, YouTube, and Slack were among the services affected, the [Washington Post](#) reports. The source of the problem was unclear, but clues pointed to Verizon, which said a fiber had been cut in Brooklyn; the company said its technicians were working on fixing it, per [Engadget](#). A Verizon spokesperson later said the outages were not caused by the fiber problem. Verizon Fios internet customers reported they were having trouble, but other internet service providers were acting up,

as well. Amazon Web Services reported it was "investigating connectivity issues with an internet provider, mainly affecting the East Coast of the United States, outside of the AWS Network."

The outages were mostly in an area from DC to Boston, per [Axios](#). A network monitoring company said the outage began at 11:25am, with recovery starting at 12:37pm. Verizon's traffic fell 12%, per [ABC](#). Comcast Xfinity service apparently was struck as well, and Facebook, Gmail, and Twitter have been affected. Pokemon Go also was a casualty, per [WRAL](#). Slack said the problem wasn't on its end. A Massachusetts middle school was able to [tweet](#): "Widespread internet outages in the area impacting remote learning today. Stay patient and do best you can." Source: <https://www.newser.com/story/301794/along-east-coast-internet-woes-affect-zoom-slack.html>

GRC EMP Webinar Follow-up

During the Global Resilience Commission's Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) Webinar today there was reference to an open white paper document available that summarized a three-year R&D effort from the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) which talks about the potential impacts of a potential High-Altitude EMP, the damage that could be caused, and research around mitigation. The reference link went quickly, but here it is for those interested: <https://www.epri.com/research/programs/027540/results/3002020062>

The slides and other materials are going to be available soon for those interested.

KSHE *Certification Program for HC Facility Contractors*

Friday, March 5, 2021 | 8:00 am - 1:00 pm EST

Virtual Course - \$150

Learn more: info@kshe.org or [Register](#)

Save the Date – April 27-28

InfraGard 2021 CyberNow Summit

Call for Speakers: CNS 2021 <https://forms.gle/9WGaZX8M2apAa9z28>

ASPR TRACIE [Express for January, 2021](#)

This issue of The Express highlights the following new/updated resources:

- [Baltimore Convention Center Field Hospital Electronic Health Record](#)
- [Michigan's Approach to Administration of Monoclonal Antibody Treatment](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Resource Collection](#) (and updated [technical assistance response](#))
- [>> Hospital Operations Toolkit for COVID-19: Patient Care - Fatality Management](#)
- [Behavioral Health Compendium](#) (updated)
- [Arizona Surge Line](#)
- [Volunteering with the Medical Reserve Corps](#)

Join the ASPR TRACIE Email list: <https://visitor.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?m=1128154145936&p=oi>

The KHREF Emergency Preparedness Update is assembled several times a week. When events make it necessary, the Update may be sent out several times a day to keep our hospital and the healthcare community advised on preparedness news and information. Most of this information is compiled from open sources, and where possible reference links will be provided. There is an archive of [Emergency Preparedness Updates available here](#). If you would like to add or delete, or have something you would like to contribute to a future edition of the Emergency Preparedness Update, please contact Preparedness@kyha.com (include your current email address). The preparedness program for the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) and KHREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.